

CONSERVATION PIPELINE



© **THE ISLAND WATER ASSOCIATION, INC** • **SPECIAL EDITION**
3651 Sanibel-Captiva Road Sanibel, FL 33957 • <http://www.islandwater.com>

At IWA, our mission is “quality water at a reasonable cost.” You can help us in our mission by following the **CONSERVE** guidelines.

Check your irrigation system

The biggest discretionary use of water is through irrigation (sprinkler) systems. The more you water your lawn, the less drought resistant it is. A lawn that gets by on rainfall and a small amount of irrigation grows deeper roots, is hearty and healthy and develops less thatch; one that is watered frequently demands constant water. Consider changing your irrigation timer so that you water less, gradually at first to let your lawn adjust. You should strive for grass that looks healthy and gets no more than 1” of water per week. And if you do irrigate, do so in zones so that your mulched areas get less water than your grass (or none at all).

On again off again

Have you seen irrigation systems running while it is raining? Be sure yours isn't one of them! Water sensors attach to your irrigation system to shut it off when it rains. At around \$20, they can pay for themselves in a month or two, particularly if you are not in residence to watch your system on a day-to-day basis.

Notice what's happening with reuse

Follow the City of Sanibel's efforts to use treated effluent as an option for irrigation. While this will not be available for our entire customer base, it is certainly a great example of recycling that is a real win-win situation.

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation has information regarding plants that require little or no additional watering. They even have a native plant nursery where you can buy the plants (you'll save on gas too!).

E-Conservation

Sort of like e-commerce and e-mail! You can find links to useful resources which have a wealth of information on using water wisely. Our website is www.islandwater.com.

Rates are the key!

Understand how your bill is computed. We have a \$13 base charge, and then consumption-based charges; the rate per thousand gallons is \$3.30 for the first 5,000 gallons used. The cost gradually increases until you reach the highest usage block (over 25,000 gallons) where the water charge is nearly double, at \$6.55 per thousand gallons. This rate structure is meant to encourage conservation and is one case where you do NOT want to reach for the top!

Verify your water usage

We will soon be able to “profile” your water usage for a month by putting a device on your water meter which will record your usage at 60-minute increments throughout the month. This will let you see exactly how much water is going through your meter at different times of day, so you can quantify the water use of those long showers your visitors took or of your irrigation system. You can duplicate this somewhat on your own if you'd like; you can read your meter before an event, like your irrigation system running or washing a car, and read your meter again after to see how much water was used.

Examine your habits

Take the time to review your water bill. An average residential user consumes 11 thousand gallons per month for a bill of around \$54. If your bill is above that average, consider what you can do to save yourself money each month. Our water source is finite – please use this precious resource wisely!

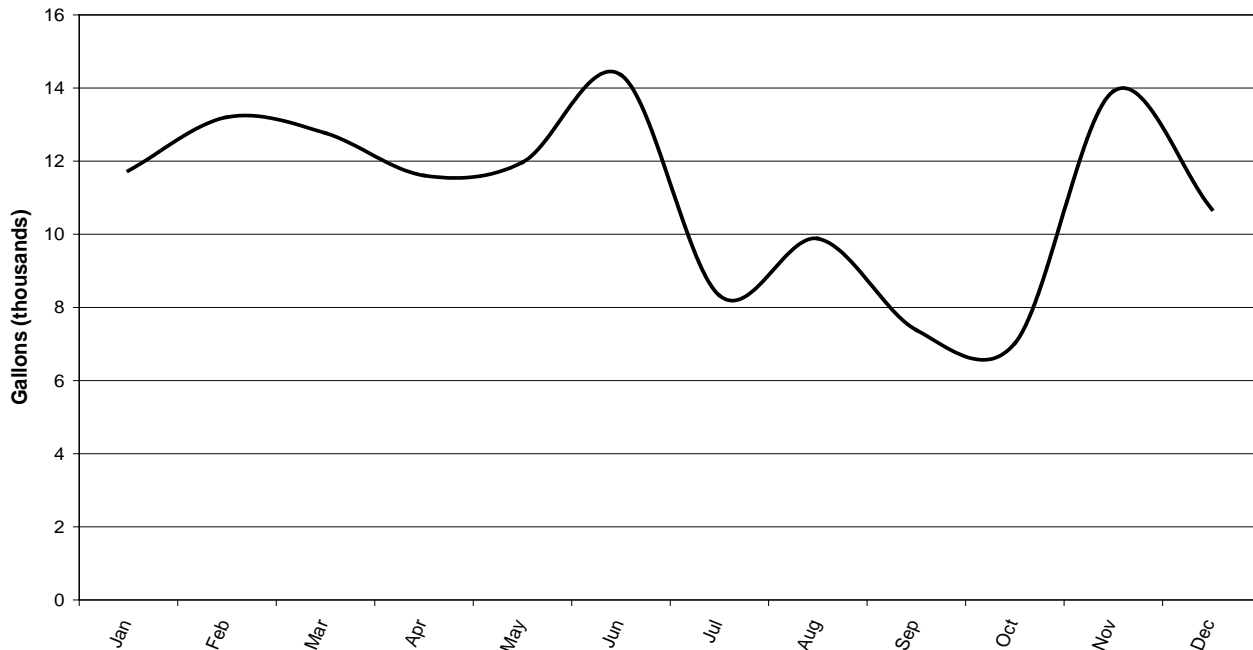
Water Conservation Acknowledgement Statement

By my signature below, I acknowledge that, in conjunction with my application for water service, I have been advised of the critical need to conserve water on Sanibel and Captiva Islands. I understand the following rate structure that is in place which makes higher uses of water more expensive:

Gallons (Per Unit)	Cost
0-5,000	\$3.30 per thousand gallons
6-10,000	\$3.95 per thousand gallons
11-15,000	\$4.60 per thousand gallons
16-20,000	\$5.25 per thousand gallons
21-25,000	\$5.90 per thousand gallons
All over 25,000	\$6.55 per thousand gallons

I acknowledge that the pattern for typical residential use is 11 thousand gallons per month spread across the year in the following pattern.

Average Residential Usage Pattern (2000 Calendar Year)



(Average residential usage and rates have remained unchanged since 2000)

I have been urged to implement the following practices as a means of contributing to the conservation effort:

1. Install appliances (toilets, shower heads, etc) which consume the minimum amount of water.
2. Consult with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) regarding water-saving methods of landscaping and/or irrigation.

Member's Signature _____

Date _____